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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8260  
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 0212

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 001423

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/16/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [PINS](#) [AG](#) [EZ](#)  
SUBJECT: CZECHS ON NATO IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 186256

Classified By: Political-Economic Counselor Mike Dodman for reasons 1.4  
b+d

¶1. (C) DCM raised reftel points with Czech Defense Minister Jiri Sedivy on November 15. Pol-Econ Counselor also discussed November 16 with Director of MFA Security Policy Department. Both stressed Czech commitment to success of Riga summit and success for NATO's mission in Afghanistan. To that end, they said a proposal to take control of the PRT in Pul-i-Khumri beginning in 2008 is moving forward. The proposal could be ready for government approval by the end of November but, according to the MFA, there will probably not be a final decision in time for Riga. While the PRT proposal had been under debate for some time, both MOD and MFA were optimistic of a positive outcome. No decision has yet been made on whether the Czechs would staff this alone or seek participation from other Central Europeans if/when they take over from Hungary in Pul-i-Khumri.

¶2. (C) DefMin Sedivy said the 2007 deployment bill (now being debated in Parliament; final approval is expected in mid-December) includes a ceiling of 225 personnel in Afghanistan. This includes staff to maintain existing Czech supporting role at the PRT in Feyzabad, increased manpower to support Czech lead role at Kabul airport, and the addition of 10 CBRN specialists working with ISAF in the south.

¶3. (C) Septel will review the full 2007 deployment plan in greater detail.  
GRABER